

Serial No. 09/803,941

REMARKS

The claims have been amended in a sincere attempt to advance prosecution. The claims as revised are based upon claims allowed in the counterpart European application.

The Examiner will note that claim 1 now refers to application of compression to the outside partition wall when the structure is cooled from the firing temperature; see, for example, page 10, lines 5 to 11 of the specification. See also the working and comparative examples.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, especially as now revised, patentably define over the cited art and a USPTO paper to those ends is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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